

**REMARKS**

Claims 1 and 18-21 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended. Support for the amendment may be found, for example, in the specification at page 15, lines 14-16. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application based upon the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiner Nguyen at the interview held September 9 are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

**I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph**

The Office Action rejects claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Office Action asserts that the limitation of claim 19 that recites, "the operation member drive control means drives the operation member so as to apply a force in a direction opposite to the direction in which the operation member is moved," was not particularly pointed out in the specification. As discussed at the interview, Applicants respectfully assert that support for claim 19 can be found in the specification at page 21, line 18 through page 25, line 18 and Fig. 5A and 5B.

In particular, Fig. 5B illustrates the operation of the reactive forces. For example, when the user moves the operation member in the direction represented by arrow A, the user will feel no resistance when the operation member is being moved within the range represented by a1. Once the user moves the operation member past a1 and into the range represented by a2, the user will feel a resistance that is applied in the direction that is opposite to the direction that the user is moving the operation member. The resistance is represented by the arrow opposing the direction represented by arrow A. In addition, the resistance is

applied in the direction that is opposite to the direction that the user is moving the operation member in order to indicate to the user that they have arrived at an item to be selected on the display screen.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

**II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)**

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 18 and 20-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Badarneh. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Office Action asserts that Badarneh discloses each feature of instant claims 1, 18 and 20-21. In particular, the Office Action asserts that Badarneh discloses an operation member drive control means, as claimed. Applicants disagree.

Independent claim 1 specifies, *inter alia*, the operation member drive control means drives the operation member by moving the operation member in a direction in which an image is displayed on the display screen in order that the user selects the displayed image using the operation member, and the operation member drive control means further drives the operation member to convey a reactive force to the user. However, this feature is not disclosed, expressly or inherently, in Badarneh.

As discussed at the interview, at most, Badarneh discloses an operating device 501 of the switch that is depressed or tilted by the user in order to move the switch (Badarneh, paragraph [0107], Fig. 27a and 27b). Badarneh also discloses that movement of the switch is detected by the element or elements 774 and a signal is sent by the processor to the control unit to actuate the switch (Badarneh, paragraph [0125], Fig. 42). Badarneh further discloses that after the switch is actuated, a signal passes via a computer to a screen that interactively shows menu alternatives and results in response to the use of the switch (Badarneh, paragraph [0125], Fig. 42).

In contrast, the present application discloses that an operation member is moved by the user in a desired direction. An operation member drive control means then drives the operation member in at least that direction, according to an operation pattern that is contained in the operation member drive control section, such that the user selects the displayed image that corresponds to the operation pattern initiated by the movement of the operation member by the user. *See* present specification at page 18, lines 1-23. The present application further discloses that the drive control section drives the operation member under control by the control section to so as to convey a reactive force to the user. *See* present specification at page 15, lines 14-16.

As discussed at the interview, Badarneh thus fails to disclose an operation member drive control means for driving the operation member at least in a one-dimensional direction, wherein the operation member drive control means drives the operation member by moving the operation member in a direction in which an image is displayed on the display screen in order that the user selects the displayed image using the operation member, as claimed. Badarneh further fails to disclose that the operation member drive control means drives the operation member to convey a reactive force to the user, as claimed. Accordingly, Bardaneh does not anticipate independent claim 1.

Claims 18 and 20-21 depend from independent claim 1. Because Badarneh fails to teach the features recited in independent claim 1, dependent claims 18 and 20-21 are patentable for at least the reasons that claim 1 is patentable, as well as for the additional features they recite.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

**III. Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of this application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Date: September 17, 2008

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